



CHOICE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND HOW TO APPLY

CHOICE is an acronym that stands for Community and Home based Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled. CHOICE services in became available statewide July 1, 1992 through Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging. Services are accessed in Central Indiana through CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions.

The eligibility requirements and service guidelines of the service are:

1. The applicant must have functional limitations that are expected to last indefinitely.
2. CHOICE funding for services is the funding of last resort. This means that all other payment sources (Medicare, Medicaid, etc.) for in-home services must be considered before CHOICE dollars may be used.
3. CHOICE services are not restricted by age. In fact, 20% of all CHOICE dollars must be spent for those under the age of 60.
4. All applicants for the CHOICE program must first be assessed by a Care Manager. If the applicant is not eligible for CHOICE services, he or she may be eligible for other services. The Care Manager or CICOA's Information and Assistance will assist the applicant in pursuing other services that may be available.
5. CHOICE services are for people of all incomes and do not require applicants to spend their savings or investments before they qualify. **There are, however, cost share provisions for those with greater incomes. Applicants cannot have over \$500,000 in total assets.**
6. CHOICE services include, but are not limited to: Attendant Care, Care Management, Skilled Nursing, Respite Care, Home Delivered Meals, Transportation, Minor Home Modifications, Adaptive Aids and Devices, and Personal Emergency Response Systems.
7. CHOICE is funded 100% by the State of Indiana, along with cost share payments received by clients, and is limited by the availability of these funds as appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly. As a result, waiting lists are likely.
8. To refer for CHOICE or other in-home services in Central Indiana, contact CICOA's Information & Assistance Department:

Inside Local Calling Area: (317) 254-3660

Outside Local Calling Area: 1-800-432-2422